

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method for filtering instant messages, comprising:
examining an instant message from a sender to a supervised client;

determining whether the sender has been approved by a supervisory client to send the instant message to the supervised client, said supervisory client having a different address than said supervised client;

requesting approval from the supervisory client for sending the instant message to the supervised client if the sender has not been approved; and

sending the instant message to the supervised client upon approval by the supervisory client.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, further including requesting approval from the supervisory client for the sender to send subsequent instant messages to the supervised client.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, further including adding the sender to a control list associated with the supervised client upon approval of the sender by the supervisory client.

26. – 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further including controlling availability to other clients of an online status indication of the supervised client.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further including maintaining a control list containing approved senders for the supervised client.

31. (Previously Presented) An electronic communication system, comprising:
an instant messaging service including

a plurality of session servers into which clients can log on to the system;
at least one message server for routing instant messages between the

clients; and

a control module for examining an instant message sent by a first one of the clients to a supervised one of the clients to determine if the first client has been approved by a supervisory client, said supervised one of the clients having a different network address than said supervisory client, to send instant messages to the supervised client.

32. (Previously Presented) An electronic communication system serving a plurality of clients, comprising:

an ISP system including an IM proxy and associated control module for interfacing with an IM service for examining an instant message sent by a first one of the clients to a supervised one of the clients to determine if the first client has been approved by a supervisory client to send instant messages to supervised client,

wherein said supervised one of the clients has a different network address than said supervisory client.